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1. Anton Plenikowski, head of the state administrative section of the SED Central Secretariat, presided recently over a session of judges and state attorneys belonging to the SED. To the astonishment of all, he proclaimed the independence of the courts. A subsequent statement, however, made clear his conception of independence. There is no room in the courts, he said, for any one in whom the SED can not put its trust.
2. Since the majority of all judges and state attorneys are members of the SED, a new purge can affect only this group. A general feeling of anxiety prevailed when it was announced that the "Highschool for Justice" in Leipzig will annually train 600 candidates for the judiciary who will become judges and state attorneys of "ideological purity and trustworthiness." Since there are only a total of 1300 judges and state attorneys in the Eastern Zone, the scope of future "purifications" may well be imagined.
3. Plenikowski angrily denounced the "Untersuchungsausschuss Freiheitlicher Juristen" (Commission of Inquiry of Free Jurists) for the heavy damage it has inflicted on the DDR. The SSD, he said, has unfortunately failed to discover enough cases of conspiracy. The dismissal of any one entering the Western Sector of Berlin would be the best antidote, he suggested, against the defections of East German jurists to the "Free Jurists".

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